

Trapped in a mystery

See page 3



Standing together for a life cause

See page 4

VALLEY STAR

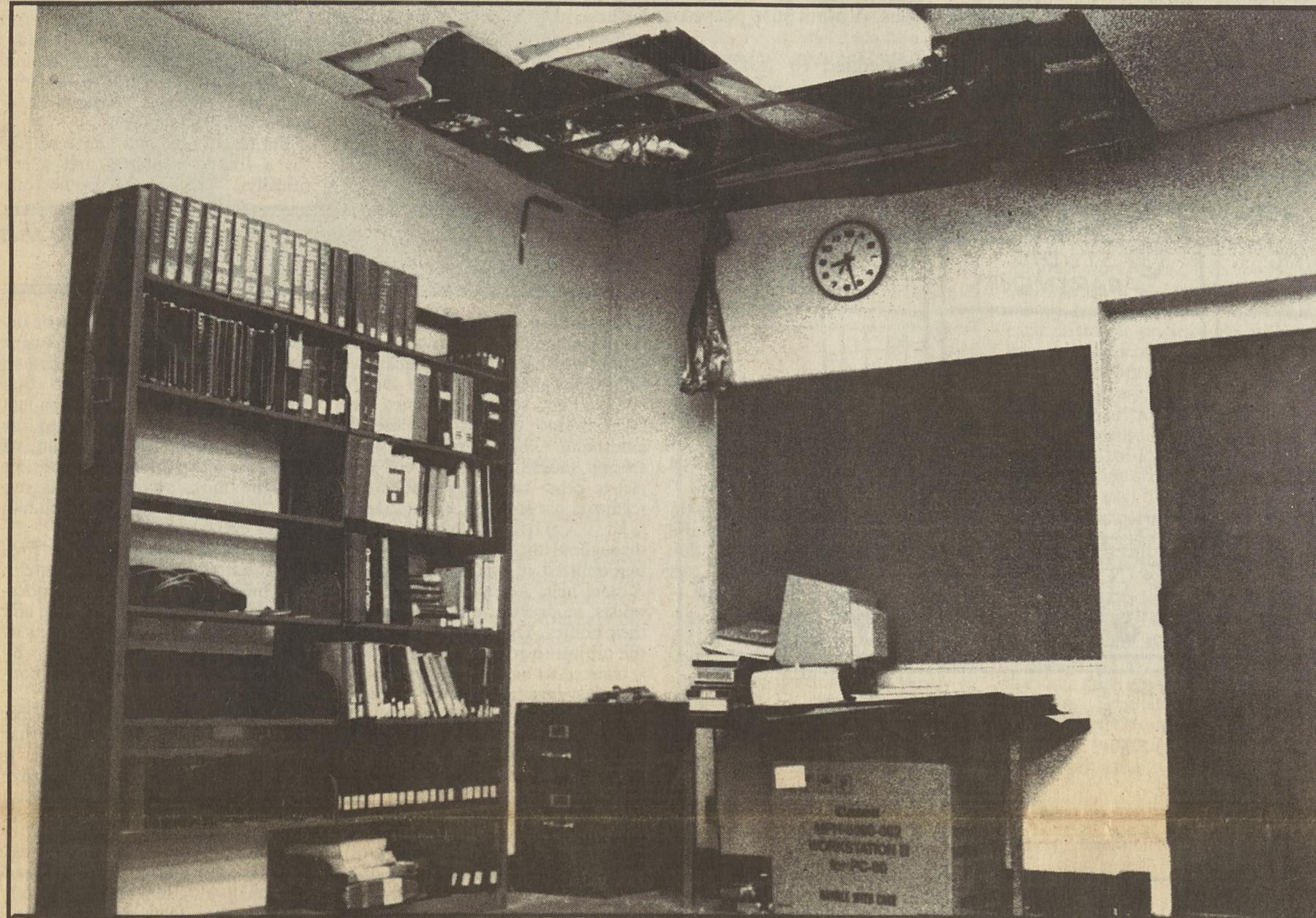
Van Nuys, California

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LEN LY / Valley Star

STILL WAITING—The Library has announced another postponement. It will be until Nov. 12.

Library still closed

Seven weeks and still counting

By SUSAN M. TYRRELL
Staff Writer

The Library, which has been closed for asbestos removal since the beginning of the semester, remains closed despite numerous notices that it would be open by now.

On Monday, a sign in the Library window announced yet another postponement, this one until Nov. 12. No explanation accompanied this or previous notices.

According to Building Facilities, the asbestos removal has been completed. All that remains now is to

reassemble the interior of the Library

None of the workers at the Library had any comment on the additional three-week delay, except to say that the work was being done by an outside contractor.

Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of administration, said it "is past the point of no return," and that the only thing that can be done at this point is to pressure the contractor.

She said the Library was originally scheduled to reopen by the end of the first week of the fall semester, but the contractor ran into unexpected problems with the removal,

thus causing the delays.

"It's not a good situation," Breckell said, "They are attempting to repair the damage that occurred when the asbestos was removed."

Breckell said the same contractor was responsible for the asbestos removal in the Theatre Arts Department and Monarch Hall over the summer. Both jobs were finished on schedule, she said, so there was no reason to believe the Library job would be any different.

Initially, the work was to have taken place during summer school, but Breckell said the Los Angeles

Community College District was unable to get the contracts out in time.

The sign at the Library says that it will reopen on Nov. 12, but that is Veteran's Day weekend, and there is no school. No one contacted in administration could give an exact opening date. Building Facilities said no date has been set, and Breckell could not verify a date, but said that the library would not reopen until it is safe.

Today, parts of the ceiling are still torn out and electrical and lighting work needs to be completed.

\$66,000 more

Extra cost in Fitness Center

By JOSE LEMUS
and JOE DON LEWIS
Staff Writer
and News Feature Editor

A new estimated budget of \$152,000 has been confirmed for the Fitness Center's total "out of pocket" expenses by the Faculty Senate's adhoc committee, which investigated recent expenditures for the project and presented their findings to the Faculty Senate meeting last Thursday.

Presented in a written form by John Maddox, professor of history and chair of the adhoc committee to investigate the fitness center and other contractual expenditures on campus, the report states the approximated amount of \$152,000 as the total out of pocket expenses for the project.

On October 2, David E. Ogne, plant facilities director and head of construction for the Fitness Center, had originally provided a budget of \$83,933 as the total "Actual material and contract cost for the Fitness Center" to Mary Ann Breckell, administrative vice-president of Valley College.

However, the report submitted by the adhoc committee, integrated by John Maddox, Phil Clarke, professor of Math and Gary Honjio, men's physical education department chair, contends that Breckell submitted to the committee Ogne's budget (\$83,933) on Oct. 8, "with the statement that it included all "out of pocket" expenses on the fitness center project."

Ogne also believes that compensatory time costs given to craftsmen (Plant Facility workers) on Saturdays (figuring Saturdays at time and a half) was substantial. The committee, however, could not provide documented proof of their speculations.

In addition, the committee believes that compensatory time costs given to craftsmen (Plant Facility workers) on Saturdays (figuring Saturdays at time and a half) was substantial. The committee, however, could not provide documented proof of their speculations.

"We should still say that the cost of the fitness center, in total, would be at least \$250,000," Sterk said.

In response, Ogne said it would be impossible to release any in house expenditures is received or performed.

Breckell reaffirmed her information as stated in the committee's report. Breckell also explained that her report was made within the framework of program 100, which she explained as the college's general budget.

The new cost estimate for the Fitness Center is due to the fact that Ogne's budget report did not include the cost of equipment to be used to operate the center. Ogne reiterated that his estimated budget was on the cost of material and contract for the remodeling of the facility alone.

"We have nothing to do with the equipment," Ogne said. Nevertheless, for the adhoc committee the total "out of pocket" expenses for the project amounts to the approximated sum of \$152,000, with an ex-

TAE Enrichments

By DORA ROMAN
Editor in Chief

In a movement against student apathy, Valley College's Tau Alpha Epsilon Club is working to meet the goals it set at the beginning of the semester: motivating students to work in public service and promoting academic excellence.

TAE, along with the other campus clubs, cooperate with the Associated Student Union in urging students to work in extra curricular activities.

Established in 1949, TAE is a scholastic honor society. The requirements for each member is a 3.2-grade-point-average in either the last 12 graded units or in 18 units overall.

"The club wants to promote academic excellence and public service and provide social and intellectual enrichments," said Lynn

tra \$60,000 being tagged for equipment expenditures and another \$6,000 in staff development funds.

Jack Sterk, president of the Faculty Senate said that the report was approved at Thursday's meeting. However, Sterk still supports the rumor that the total cost of the facility is in the \$250,000 range, since administration declined to release "in house" costs to the adhoc investigation.

In a written conclusion of the investigation, the adhoc report states that administration "declined to give any "in house" labor costs (Plant Facility craftsmen total working cost for the project and actual on-hand materials at Valley during the construction), stating that these are not "out of pocket" expenses."

In addition, the committee believes that compensatory time costs given to craftsmen (Plant Facility workers) on Saturdays (figuring Saturdays at time and a half) was substantial. The committee, however, could not provide documented proof of their speculations.

Sterk also believes the total cost for the Fitness Center may increase if a thorough calculation of in-house expenditures is received or performed.

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LifePlus bridging the gap during the holidays

By DORA ROMAN
Editor in Chief

Life Plus Operation Homefront and Valley College plan to bridge the gap between soldiers in the Persian Gulf and friends and relatives in the U.S. during the holiday season.

Valley College is one of seven

locations in the Los Angeles area where gifts are being accepted for U.S. soldiers in the Middle East. Donations of gifts will be accepted today only in the campus' northern parking lot on Fulton Ave. and Oxford St.

Suggested donations include disposable razors, lip balm, hand lotion, batteries, sunblock lotion, books, magazines and unperishable

foods. Corporations and individuals have already donated large quantities of gifts. Channel 13 news will be covering the event.

LifePlus Operation Homefront is an organization for the family and friends of people serving in the Middle East. They will be at the seven locations to receive the donations as well as to answer questions the public

may have about the conditions in the Persian Gulf and the well-being of the soldiers.

The Life Plus Foundation also has counselors helping families in the U.S. with common emotional reactions they can go through. One of the biggest problems is the concern of the children that are left without a parent.

Pro-choice: making votes count

By DORA ROMAN
Editor in Chief

As political elections draw closer, and the debate over abortion continues to divide the nation, Valley College Pro Choice Club members are preparing to make their votes count.

The club is busy gathering applications for a Vote-by-Mail cam-

paign. The campaign is aimed at filling the absentee ballots in support of "freedom of choice." So far 400 applications have been filed by Valley students, staff and faculty.

Pro-Choice has also raised \$95 from a bake sale that took place on Club Day. The club was awarded an additional \$25 for best overall presentation.

"This extra money helps us to make more flyers and give booklets on information of choices to

students," said Donna Piluso, vice president of the Pro-Choice Club.

At the club's first meeting, Rebecca Sheehan from the American Civil Liberties Union brought club members up to date on current events concerning freedom of choice.

Roz Brown, president of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women, will speak at 1 p.m. today in H100. Her speech will deal with the issue

of parental consent for pregnant teenagers who want to have an abortion. A showing of the film "Abortion Denied" is also scheduled.

Pro-Choice's future plans include setting up a campus rally to raise students' consciousness about pro-choice issues. Also, there are plans for a speaker to discuss RU486, the European "morning-after pill."

"We want to educate ourselves to the many choices we have," Piluso said

TAE Enrichments

Ezzie, president of TAE This week's activities include soliciting donors for a campus blood drive, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 31.

"Every week we also recycle glass, paper and cans," said Jackie Tozzi, TAE public relations representative.

Some advantages of being an active TAE Club member include eligibility for scholarships at the end of each semester, a certificate of membership and the eligibility to wear gold cords at graduation.

TAE is currently working with a new club, Students Supporting Students in El Salvador. SSSES is collecting donations of clothing and student supplies. The collection will take place at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31 at the Lion's Den.

TAE meets every other Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Lion's Den. At the TAE meeting scheduled for Nov. 14, recyclables will be collected.

Proposition 129: Drug Enforcement Con

Pro

To win the war on drugs, we must fight hard on every front. Proposition 129 will assemble hundreds of state and local agents in "crackdown" task forces aimed at big-time drug smugglers.

Proposition 129 can put over 2,000 more cops on the beat.

Proposition 129 will build regional jails and no-frills prisons for drug offenders on surplus federal land in the desert, far away from homes and schools.

Proposition 129 can provide treatment for thousands of teenagers, pregnant women and others trying to get off drugs.

Proposition 129 can make sure all our children get the anti-drug message that could save their lives.

Proposition 129 keeps the tough criminal reforms, but it restores the right to privacy in our Constitution and protects freedom of choice.

Proposition 129 won't raise your taxes. Instead, it will dedicate future proceeds from recently closed corporate tax loopholes for an anti-drug superfund.

EVERY PENNY of the superfund money will go for fighting drugs, primarily through locally controlled programs.

After eight years, the program ends unless the people or the Legislature vote to continue it.

Vote YES on Proposition 129, the California war on drugs.

There are very serious flaws in this plan.

Proposition 129 would earmark every new tax dollar, without regard to need, economy or efficiency.

State revenues this year increased by 7 percent, but earmarked and dictated spending requirements demanded higher than 7 percent spending growth, producing a budget shortfall.

Proposition 129 would only make state budgeting worse, likely resulting in other serious program cuts or increased taxes.

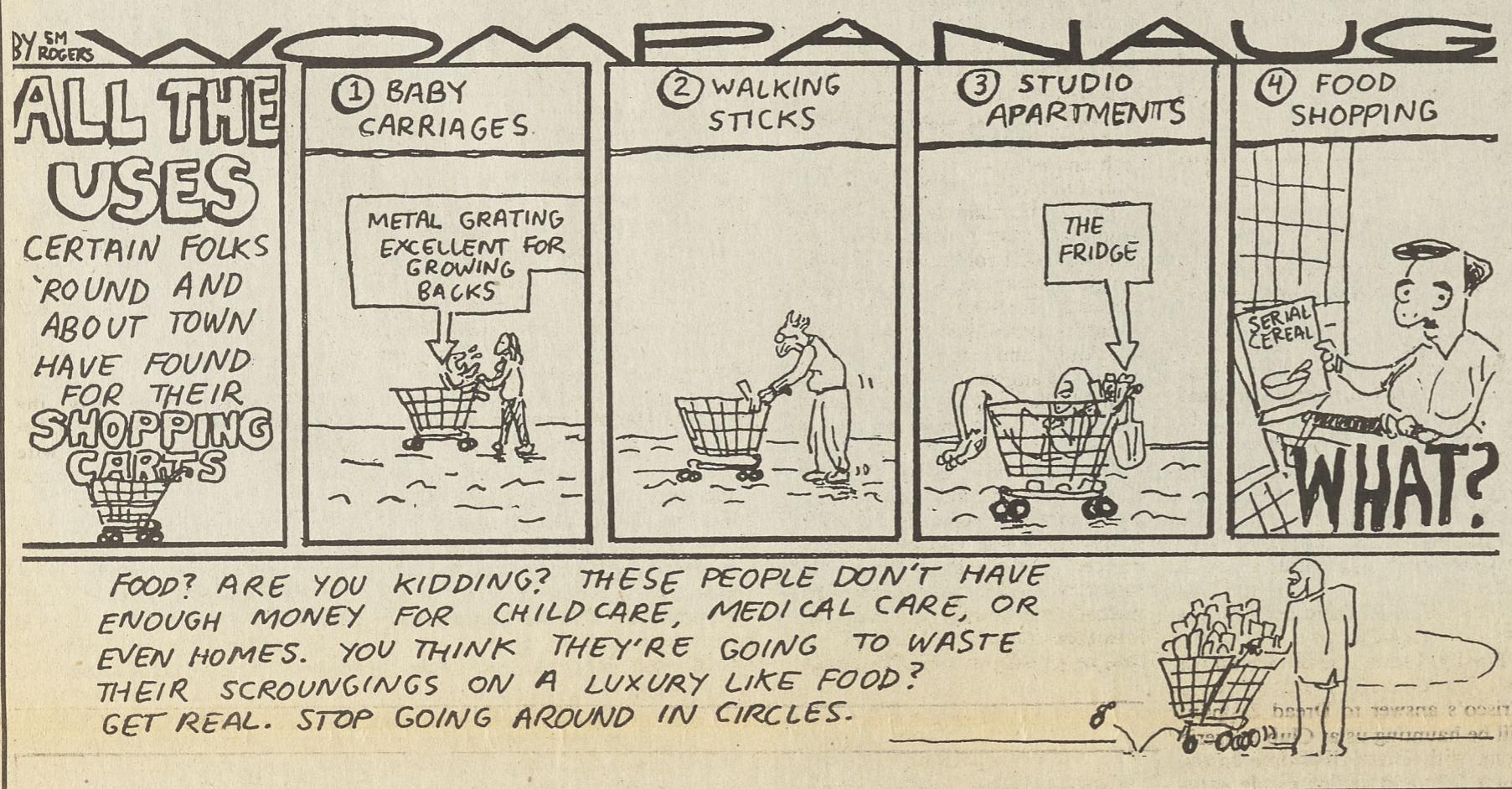
Analysis by the Legislative Analyst states that the only way Proposition 129 can be paid for is by *raising taxes*.

Proposition 129 would take up to \$1.8 billion in spending outside the state's constitutional spending limit, right after voters reaffirmed their support of spending limits passed by Proposition 111 on the June ballot.

Most alarming is the inclusion of a \$740 million general obligation bond for jail and prison facilities. Voters just passed a \$450 million prison bond in June.

Tens of millions of dollars would be needed to staff and operate these new jail and prison facilities. Where would the state and counties find the money?

Proposition 129 is silent to this need.



Proposition 125: Rail Transit Funding Con

Pro

Proposition 125 improves transit without increasing taxes one cent. It allows a portion of the existing gas tax, already allocated by law for mass transit capital improvements, to also be used to acquire rail transit rolling stock, such as light rail cars, locomotives and commuter/intercity rail cars.

In 1974, California voters approved allocation of gas tax funds to rail mass transit projects. As a result, millions of Californians are now using successful rail systems such as BART in the Bay Area, light rail in San Diego, and Amtrak between Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego.

The California Constitution currently allows gas tax funds to be used for all rail mass transit capital outlay needs, except for the acquisition of rolling stock. Proposition 125 will allow these funds to be used for passenger rail cars and locomotives.

Proposition 125 will help provide more seats on existing rail lines, and it will provide an additional funding source for equipment for new rail lines now in the planning stages for many parts of California.

Proposition 125 will benefit both urban and rural parts of California because it applies to both urban rail transit lines in areas such as Los Angeles and Orange County, and intercity Amtrak lines connecting California's rural areas with urban centers.

Voting YES on Proposition 125 is a yes vote on cleaner air and less traffic congestion. It is also a yes vote on a balanced transportation system.

Proposition 125 requires that taxes be taken from one class of citizens - automobile and truck drivers - to benefit another class of citizens - the riders of mass transit.

Proposition 125 dictates that the cost of driving an automobile or truck be fixed artificially higher so that the cost of using a mass transit system can be priced artificially lower. This is socialized transit.

Proposition 125 takes one of the few taxes resembling a user fee, the gasoline tax, and turns it into an income redistribution system for the benefit of rail transit riders.

Proposition 125 encourages and funds a system of transportation which consistently fails to pay its own way. No rail transit system in existence earns more than half its cost from rider fares. In fact, most transit systems cost eight times more in taxes than the amount dropped into fare boxes.

Promoters fail to tell voters that the contractors who build these systems will reap hundreds of millions of dollars in profits, paid by other persons than those who use the transit systems.

Proposition 125 is based upon the assumption that the users of public transit systems would not willingly pay the full cost of frequent and efficient public transit.

Vote for honesty in public transit.

Vote for the free market, as the socialist world is now doing.

Vote for common sense.

Vote for taxpayer control over state government.

Vote NO on Proposition 125.

Vivisection ... Scientific fraud

By ERIKA WORTH
Staff Writer

We've all heard about animal experimentation and how beneficial it is to the human race. Well, it's a lie. Approximately 90 million animals die every year in America alone in order to guarantee scientists their government funding. These experiments are useless to humanity but they are continuously repeated.

To scientists, experimental research means the re-creation of diseases in healthy subjects. It is impossible to re-create these illnesses. The experiments focus on duplicating the symptoms. They do not find the causes.

Those stray cats you see roaming around your neighborhood or in the alley are sent to "shelters" and, if no one adopts them, are sold to major universities. There they are used for testing and for experimentation. These cats will never again be free. They will be tortured to death, never to be held and loved. These innocent

animals. Gianni Tamino, a researcher at the University of Padua, explained that our metabolism is different from that of animals. We create different biochemical processes. The only similarity between humans and animals is emotion, not genetic make-up.

Thalidomide is an excellent example of the difference between man and animal. This "miracle drug" was tested on animals and proved to be safe. When given to humans, the drug caused severe malformations and irreparable damage to innocent children. This was one of numerous mistakes where the manufacturer was let off the hook. Science can always justify its mistakes.

Javier Burgos founded SUPPRESS, Students United Protesting Research on Sentient Subjects, in the hopes of enlightening the people of the world to the horrors of scientific research and animal experimentation.

Burgos claims that the research "is a fraud, medically and scientifically." The fear of people com-

"... we can boycott products that donate funds to this research ... it does save lives."

creatures are injected with PCP, synthetic heroin, to produce Parkinsonian tremors. These animals have had hemispheres of their brains removed and screws implanted into their brains without the use of anesthesia. They have been given electric shocks and have been subjected to other barbaric methods that scientists use to "better mankind."

In various laboratories throughout the world, monkeys are immobilized in restraining devices. A steel belt, wrapped around their waists, sends electric shocks through their bodies. This experiment causes the subject to go into convulsions. It is claimed to be done in the hope of finding a cure for epilepsy. Epileptic attacks in man are not a result of electric shock treatment, yet the research continues. These experiments are barbaric and pointless.

Human beings react differently to drugs and treatment than do

fronted with the facts is that of being anti-human. Vivisection cannot co-exist with respect for life, human or animal. Burgos states that "clinical research ... of a patient who spontaneously contracted the disease, is the only valid kind of research. Vivisection is responsible for the most systematic, massive and widespread damage to human health ever known."

Vivisection affects us all. Products that we use daily contribute to this needless slaughter. Corporations such as Proctor & Gamble and Nestle Food Inc. donate millions of dollars to research scientists. By buying their products, you contribute to this research.

As individuals, we can boycott products from companies that donate funds to this research. It may be inconvenient but it will save lives. Scientific research is a fraud and we are all victims unless we act now to stop it.

Letters to the Star

I was amazed and alarmed by the placidly inane editorial last week. The editor was one of the first people I've heard praise the proposed fitness center. The grounds for this praise were, "... there is no denying that physical fitness is for the good of everyone." Incredible.

Does this editor attend the same school as I do? Are these editor's feet planted on the ground or on a Life Cycle? I don't know about you, but I received a letter last summer. This letter included a list of approximately 200 classes that were cut from the program. I have also heard rumors that LAVC let go of 20 percent of its staff. I know there are a lot of zeroes in \$1.8 million, but let's try to visualize that much money. That's how much was cut from our budget. Despite assurances that this would not affect us, the students, it has.

Now it seems that our Administration has approved a rumoured \$250,000 so that our fitness center can be equipped for the '90's. Now we will be able to have our bodies conditioned by state-of-the-art machines.

Did anyone ask me? Did anyone ask you? Do you know who they asked? Have you seen those framed pictures in the Administration Building of white men smiling? That's who they

asked. Maybe that's why this college has no Women's Studies program, or even a remotely related course. Maybe that's why the Chicano Studies program and the African-American program suffered the brunt of the budget ax.

If you or I were in charge, I think we would set some priorities. Would we rather have the classes we need to transfer, or have a machine tone our bodies so that they are acceptable in society's eyes? You decide.

Emily Anicich
LAVC student

I am writing to you about the article written by Juan Morillo, on Oct. 11, 1990. The article, "No reason to celebrate," was excellent and, above all, thought provoking.

Juan's article tells the truth about Columbus' discovery of America. Columbus discovered how to rape, rob and loot the native people of that land.

Chris James
LAVC student

The college newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any officer or employee thereof.

★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

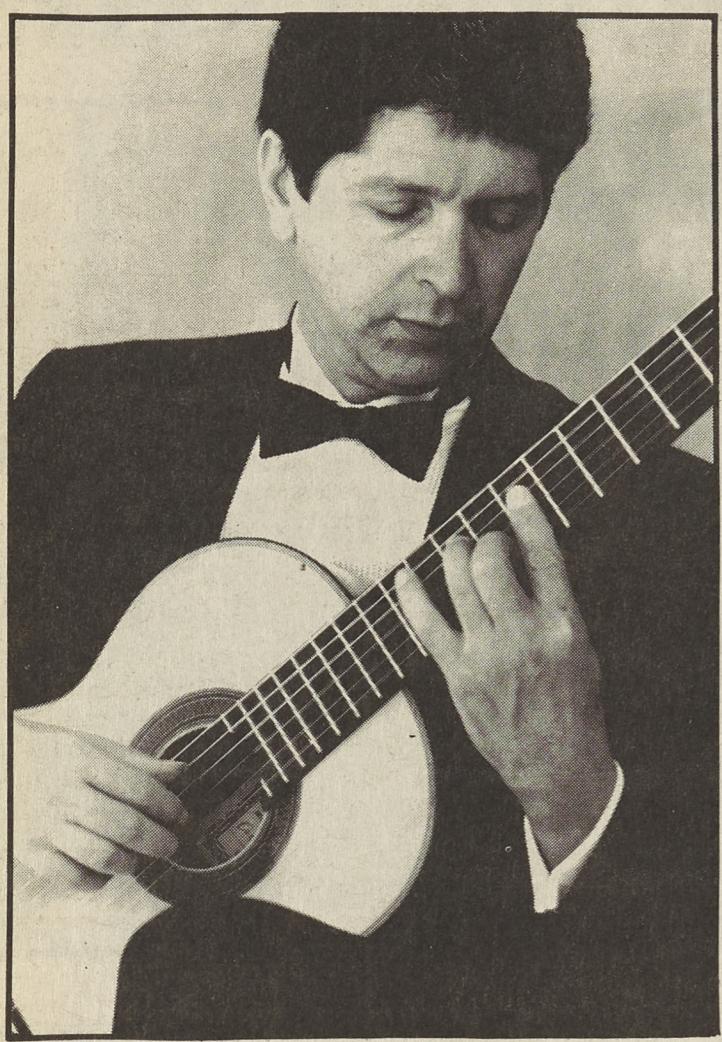
The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if



they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday for the following Thursday.

Bluestone to perform today



Robert Bluestone, classical guitarist known for his unique sense of style and interpretation, will perform this morning at the Music Recital Hall at 11 a.m.

After receiving a Master's Degree at Eastern Michigan University, Bluestone studied at the Institute of Guitarristic Arts in Mexico City and at the Andres Segovia Master Class in Santiago de Compostela, Spain; two of the most prestigious guitar conservatories in the world.

Bluestone's performance pieces include original compositions by European masters such as Johann Sebastian Bach and Federico Mompou, Mexican composer J. Gomez Crespo and others.

"An artist must feel that he is the instrument and the guitar is merely an extension of his fingers," said Bluestone. "An artist must be able to share with the audience his love for his instrument and the great music written for it."

Bluestone's performance promises to be a real treat. The concert is part of the Fall 1990 Music Department Concert series. For tickets and other information, contact LAVC music department (818) 781-1200.

Compiled by Juan Morillo

Howlin' rocking treats

By JIMMY SLOAN
Assoc. Entertainment Editor

Halloween: the scariest night of the year, the last day in Rocktober, or a burden for the concert-goer? What the hell to do?

Well, there's Jane's Addiction at the Henry Fonda Theater (supposedly by-invitation-only) for all you long-haired bohemians that are into both Led Zeppelin and Joy Division.

Maybe guitarist Dave can be Jimmy Page and singer Perry can be Ian Curtis and hang himself, on stage. Now, that I'd like to see.

If pseudo biker-rock is more your schtick, then "get your motor revving" and "head out on the highway" down to Knott's Berry Farm for Little Caesar.

If you're not really a heathen, don't worry about it, neither are they. Not only yuppies think they are Hell's Angels these days; rock bands do as well.

Meanwhile, back in the Val, Robert Plant will be doing the dinosaur at the Universal Amphitheatre.

Rolling Clones/Faces wanna-bees The Black Crowes (I wonder if they'll be themselves for Halloween?) will be opening the show for the Tall Cool One, who should probably dress as David Coverdale of Whitesnake or Ian Astbury of the Cult.

If you're into a more grungy Hollywood type of mood, then check out Junkyard at the Palace along with Johnny Crash. I don't know anything about Crash other than they're a band and not somebody's name.

Junkyard, on the other hand, are a bunch of hardcore punk rockers that went Motorhead a la AC/DC. Though they haven't forgotten their roots, covering Tex and the Horseheads' *Clean the Dirt* and the Sex Pistols' *Problems*, Junkyard

has done some recent songwriting with Steve Earle (the country Guns-N-Roses).

They plan to do all of the aforementioned songs on their next album for Geffen, which the band will start recording next month in San Francisco.

Speaking of Earle, this Regular Guy will be at the Roxy Saturday and Sunday. Earle is one of the only singer-songwriters around today that has something valid to say in country.

Unlike G-N-R, Earle can write his way out of a paper bag.

Finally, I saved the raunchiest for last. The Grateful Dead Kennedys (Frisco's answer to Dread Zeppelin) will be haunting us at Club Lingerie along with Green *Welcome to the Giant Jello* and the incredible *what-is-it?* (the singer's gender, that is), Waffle Butt.

So, don't drink too much Bloodweiser, drive your buggy safely and have a scary Halloween!

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Christie mystery

By ERIC BURNS
Staff Writer

The Monarch theater arts department has three more performances to spring Agatha Christie's classic *Mousetrap*, the longest running mystery in stage history.

The play begins in a small community outside of London, where a huge blizzard has just hit the town. Mollie played by Antonia Bath and Giles Ralston played by Scott Spiro are opening up their home as a boarding house under the name Monkswell Manor.

The plot thickens as a murder has been committed nearby. The murderer is thought to be approaching Monkswell Manor. An unexpected guest appears mysteriously at the house after four other guests have arrived.

A sergeant shows up at the home to conduct an investigation into the homicidal act. Everybody at the house had an opportunity to commit the murder, which makes the viewer sit on the edge of one's seat, wondering *whodunnit*.

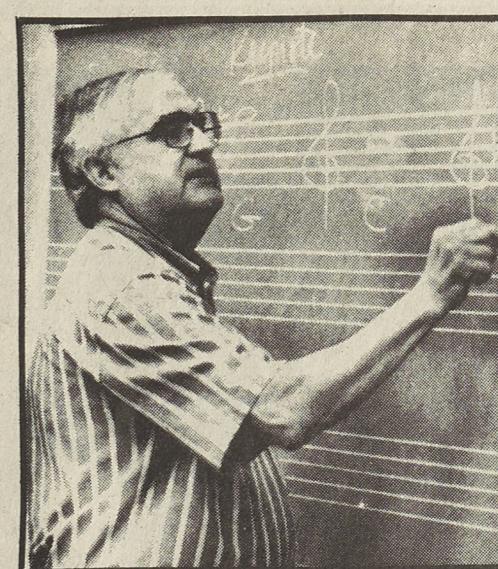
This play was an excellent adaptation of the book that Christie made famous worldwide. Everybody in the cast gave an excellent performance, convincing the audience that each character on stage could have been a murderer.

Two performances that shined bright in my mind were the character Christopher Wren, the eccentric, young aspiring architect, played by Earl Dax.

Earl's performance was both hilarious and convincing. The minute he appeared on stage flirting with Mollie, making Giles jealous, his wit became an important part of the play.

The other was of Sgt. Trotter, played by Philip de Souza, portraying an excellent authority figure.

Mousetrap will have three performances, one tonight, Friday and Saturday. General admission is \$5, students and seniors \$3. Each performance starts at 8 p.m. If you can, go get caught up in *Mousetrap*.



TUNE UP — Professor Irvin Pope (left) and student George Gaines (right) prepare for concert Oct. 29.

Pope conducts wind ensemble

By CATHERINE GUNN
Staff Writer

Student musicians will assemble for the Wind Ensemble's first performance Monday, thanks to the patience of one conductor, Irvin Pope, professor of music, and student George Gaines.

The varied program includes contemporary works, baroque music, a march, Broadway melodies and an arrangement written by Gaines.

In his 20th year at LAVC, Pope has conducted the wind ensemble and the rehearsal band since the demise of the marching band six years ago due to budget cuts. Pope claims his colleagues are what makes his tenure so enjoyable.

Pope, 59, played the trumpet throughout his youth, emulating his idol, Harry James, a popular trumpet player of the Big Band era.

He was graduated from Cal State Los Angeles with a master's in music and later taught at Chatsworth High School for 10 years.

Pope's love of James' licks may have been shared by Gaines, who retired from business and began

taking music classes at Valley. The Wind Ensemble will be playing three diverse pieces combined into one entitled "Waltzes, sort of."

Gaines' arrangement melds a folk song, *Birmingham Jail*, a blues number by Miles Davis and *A Child is Born* by Thad Jones.

After seeing a sketch for the rehearsal band in June, Pope suggested Gaines arrange the medley for the 40-piece wind ensemble. "Pope really tries to give students a boost," said Gaines. "He inspires and motivates."

Gaines began playing the saxophone just three years ago. After playing the trumpet in high school, he became sidetracked for many years while he supported his family.

Pope encouraged a handicapped student's attempts to play the saxophone. "He has so much patience," said Gaines. "His wife must put Valium in his orange juice."

The handicapped student will remember Pope, as will Gaines, as "the man [who] was there for us all." He imparts a love of music even for those who don't make it professionally," said Gaines. "I think that's what it's all about."

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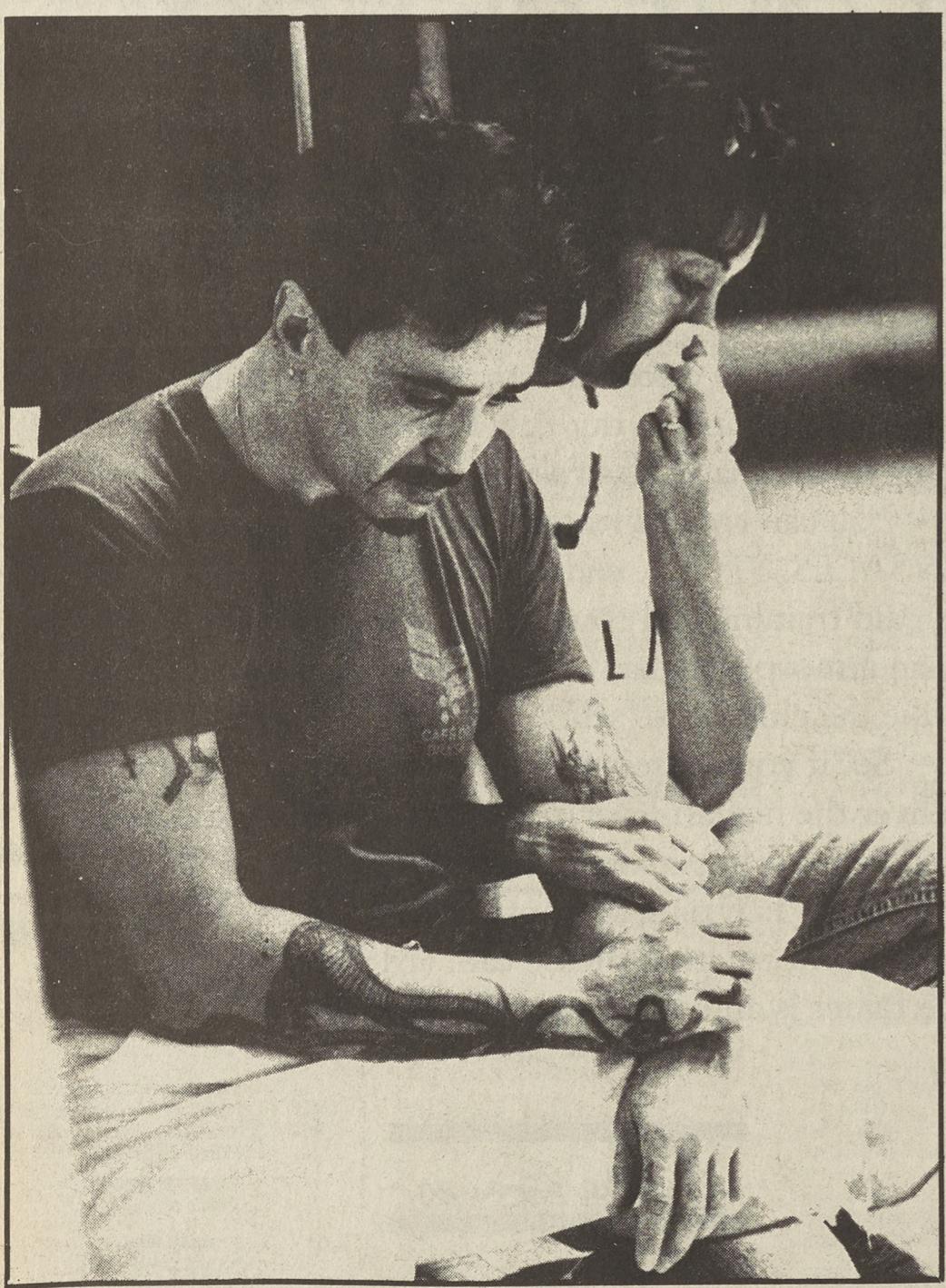
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TIES THAT BIND — As part of AIDS awareness month the First Methodist Church of Hollywood displayed the AIDS quilt.

The quilt serves as a visual reminder of those who have died but are not forgotten.



FROM THE HEART — Viewers of the AIDS quilt pause to reflect on the loss of a loved one.

*Photos By
Paul Kimura
Peter Maxwell
Dora Roman*

AIDS

Together we stand; bonding for a cause



EMOTIONAL RESCUE — Two friends console each other after the presentation of a loved one's quilt.



WALK FOR LIFE — Marchers walked to raise funds to continue the search for a cure.

AIDS: Misconceptions could be deadly



A SMILE OF HOPE—A participant of an AIDS-walk-a-thon marches through the Hollywood district.

By DORA ROMAN
and PATRICIA RUBIO
Editor in Chief
and View Editor

Despite the misconceptions, AIDS remains an equal opportunity disease.

In recognition of this grim fact October has been designated as National AIDS Awareness Month, and this particular week is AIDS Awareness Week at Valley.

In charge of the event is Erica Hauck, commissioner of gay and lesbian concerns; Lou Albert, associate professor of health education; and Lois Bergquist, professor of microbiology. Bergquist teaches a class called "AIDS: Biology and Impact."

"Our focus is to make people aware that everyone can be affected," Hauck said. "We make phone calls and contacts to see who is available to talk to us for information."

Tuesday, Bergquist hosted an informational seminar. She showed a videotaped Home Box Office special aimed at answering questions that people are too embarrassed to ask and correcting misconceptions about the virus.

Some are still unaware AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), can't be transmitted through casual contact and that the virus can't survive outside of the body for a long period of time.

The video was a taped question-and-answer session with former Surgeon General C. Everett

Symptoms of AIDS

- Unexplained weight loss of more than 10-15 pounds in less than two months.
- Dry cough or shortness of breath not related to smoking or a cold.
- Purplish skin nodules or lumps that don't go away.
- Unexplained fever usually occurring in the afternoon or evening that lasts several weeks.
- Recurrent night sweats.
- Diarrhea that is persistent.
- Creamy white patches in the mouth.
- Severe fatigue that lasts several weeks.
- Swollen lymph glands that last for more than three months.

Koop. It focused on questions asked most frequently by average Americans.

Since June of 1981, there have been 146,746 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S. The current number of deaths from AIDS in the United States to date is 89,761.

It is predicted that between 800,000 to 1.3 million AIDS cases will be reported in the next year; the situation is expected to worsen during the current decade. Currently smoking related lung cancer is the number one killer of Americans. However, by the end of the decade, experts predict

AIDS will surpass the amount of deaths attributed to smoking.

AIDS is caused by the HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) which invades human cells; it takes over the cells' functions while reproducing at a rapid rate.

AIDS patients don't die of the disease but from complications brought upon by a weakened immune system. AIDS is transmitted largely through the transferring of bodily fluids, such as semen and blood, from an affected to an unaffected person.

The most common screening test for AIDS is called ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay). ELISA tests people who have antibodies to the AIDS virus. The Western Blot is a more specific test and is used to confirm the accuracy of the ELISA test results.

Largely due to ignorance and stereotypes the virus was originally thought to be transmitted only by intravenous drug use and unprotected anal sex among gay white men. Unfortunately, the disease is not so discriminate and is rapidly progressing among the young, poor and minority populations and heterosexuals at an alarming rate.

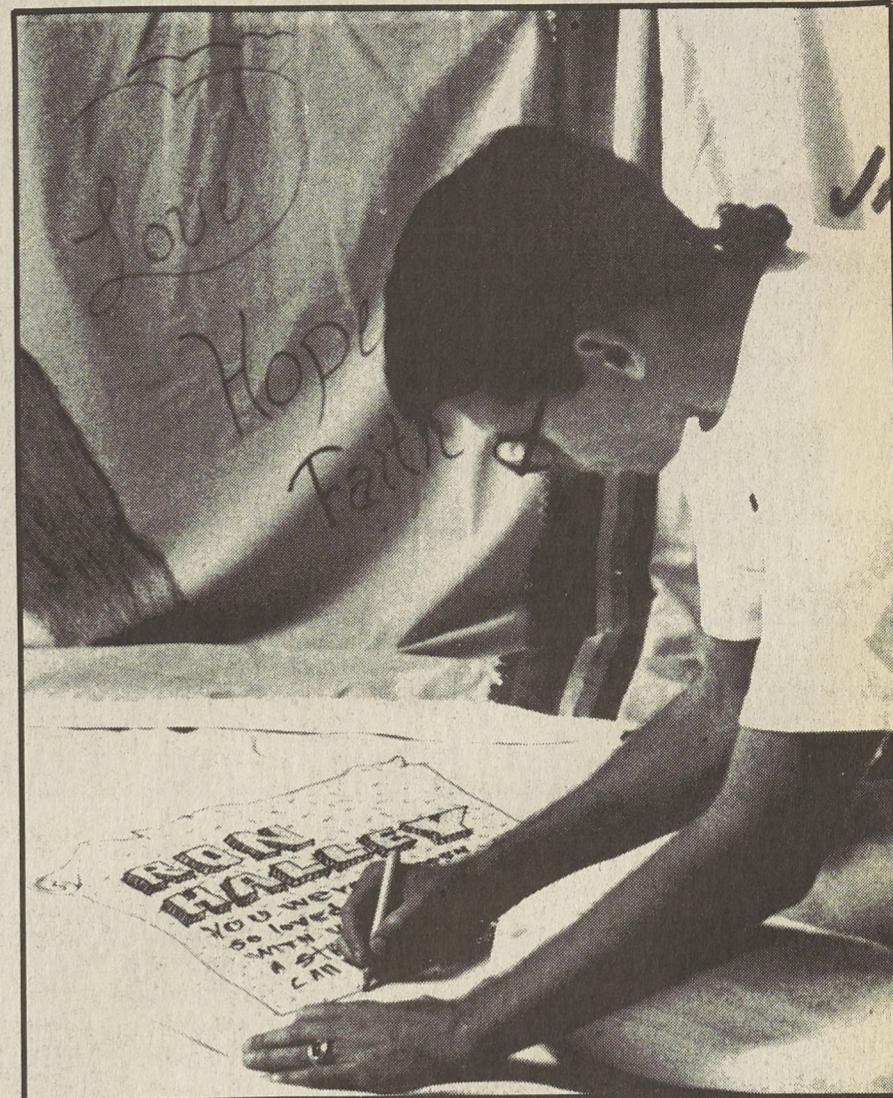
New evidence suggests AIDS cases are increasing among inner-city and runaway teenagers as well. In high-risk cities, one percent of 15 and 16-year-olds are infected with the virus. At the college level, one in 500 students may carry the virus, according to the Oct. 23, 1989 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*.

Casual sex and crack cocaine are believed to be responsible for the increase among the young. Los Angeles is the first city scheduled to operate a residential center for teens with AIDS.

Surprisingly, it is easier for women to get infected from men. Women who engage in unsafe sexual contact during their menstruation cycle have a higher chance of picking up the virus.

Experts believe more sex and drug education are needed in order to combat the disease. In the U.S., 28 states now require AIDS education in schools, while in Canada the Toronto School Board recently voted to install condom vending machines in public high schools.

Educators are joining the battle by resorting to games to teach young people about AIDS. BLOCKAIDS, a game developed by the University of Texas, is aimed at teaching teens about



PAUL G. KIMURA / Valley Star

SILENT FAREWELL—Memories of loved ones that have died of AIDS are kept alive through the unity of the AIDS quilt.

AIDS while entertaining them.

Players are asked questions about the disease; a wrong answer prompts the appearance of an AIDS virus that destroys a player's row of blocks, while a cor-

tion in hope of curbing the disease. Ganciclovir and Erythropoietin both have not been fully tested, but have been offered to the AIDS community.

Ganciclovir treats the severe eye infection which afflicts one in every four AIDS patient. Erythropoietin hasn't been approved for commercial marketing, but it has been shown in tests to combat the anemia caused by AZT, the drug currently used to treat AIDS.

Recent studies by researchers at the Federal Center in Atlanta have speculated that Kaposi's Sarcoma, a form of cancer which afflicts AIDS patients, may be a separate sexually transmitted disease. The cancer strikes 15 percent of AIDS patients in the U.S.

Currently, there is no cure for the AIDS virus. One thing about the virus, though, is certain; AIDS is an unbiased killer and its servants are mainly ignorance and misconception.

rect response produces a figure trying to kill the virus named "Blocky."

While education may help stop the spread of AIDS, two new drugs have been introduced by the Food and Drug Administra-

tion

